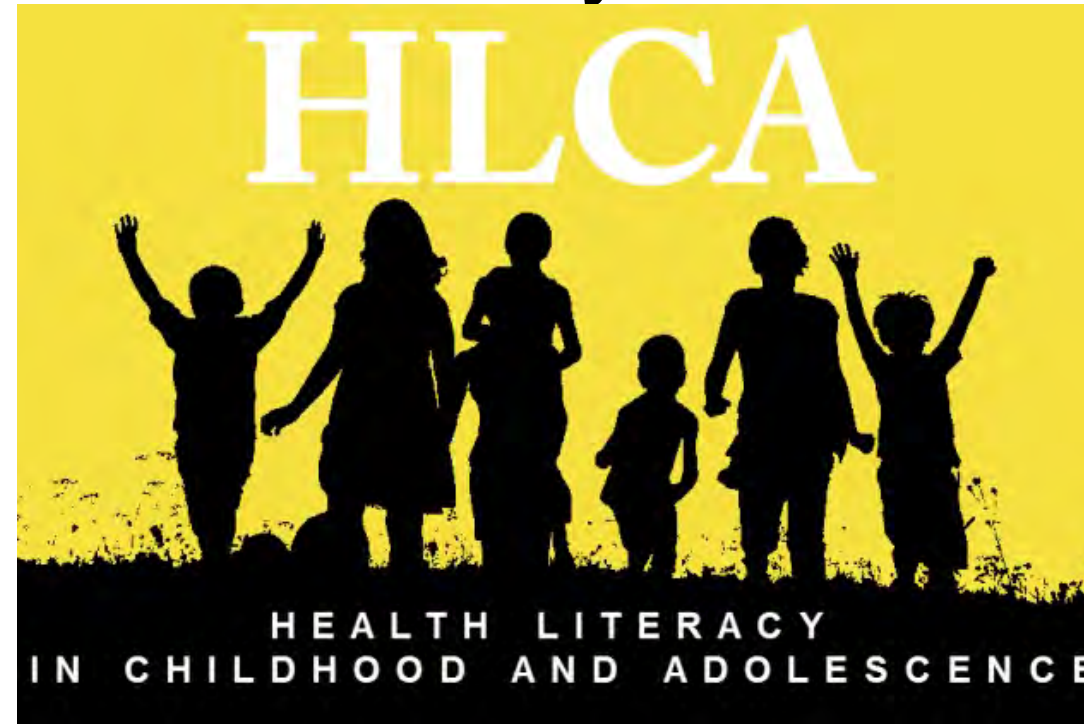


# Methods of Measuring Health Literacy of Children



OÉ Gaillimh  
NUI Galway

2015 Health Promotion Conference  
Health Literacy: Research, Policy & Practice  
18 June 2015

## Content of the Presentation

RATIONALE & BACKGROUND

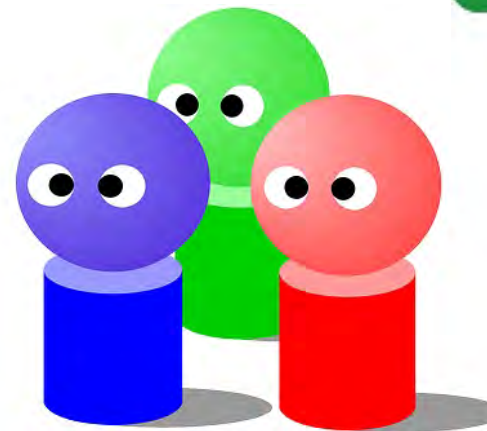
OBJECTIVES

METHODOLOGY

SUMMARY & CONCLUSION



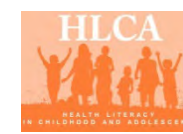
People



Ester Lopes

Orkan Okan

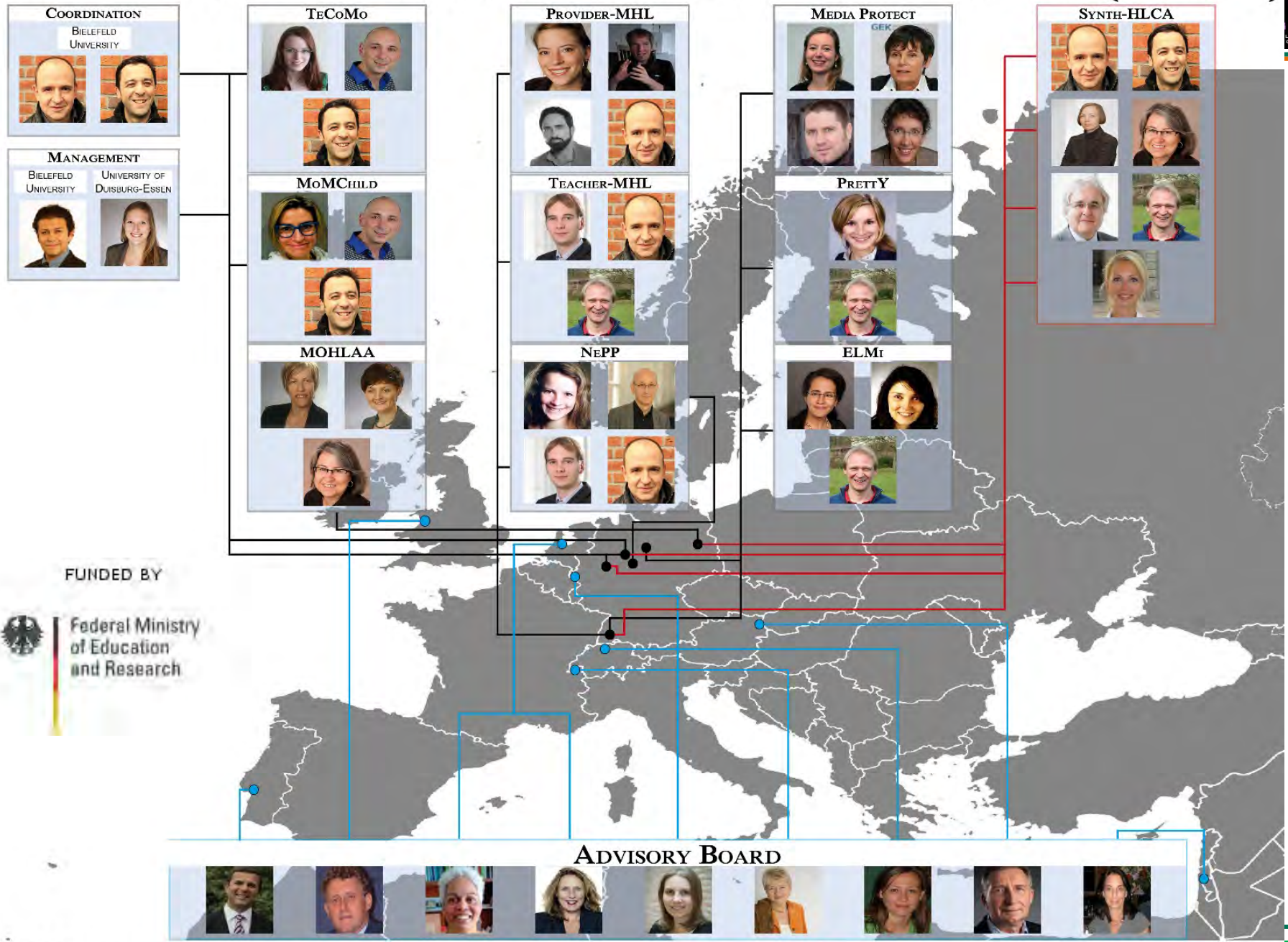
Paulo Pinheiro



- Child and Adolescent Health Literacy Research in HLCA project Germany
- Start date 03/2015 – 03/2018
- 10 Subprojects, including Synthesis Project
- Funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)
- Collaborative team science with partners from various fields, e.g. Education, Psychology, Sociology, Public Health
- Aiming at research in general Health Literacy, Mental Health Literacy and eHealth Literacy
- Mostly all projects will develop conceptual frameworks, tools and conduct surveys



# HEALTH LITERACY IN CHILDHOOD AND ADOLESCENCE (HLCA)



# A TARGET FOR HEALTH PROMOTION AND PRIMARY PREVENTION

5 Health Promotion Conference. Health Literacy: Research, Policy & Practice | 18 June 2015

## Project Background in a Nutshell

- **What:** Tool development & validation



Model	Health Literacy Levels		
	functional skills	interactive skills	critical skills
Nutbeam Typology			
HLS-EU Matrix	access/obtain; understand; appraise/judge/evaluate; apply/use		
Milieu Typology	Health Care	Disease Prevention	Health Promotion
	Dispositional skills (class-related capability to act health literate)		

- **Who:** Target population children 9-10 years old



- **How:** Mixed Methods, Qualitative & Quantitative



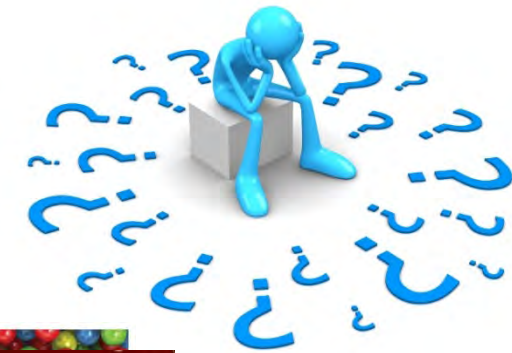
- **Where:** Germany





## Project Background in a Nutshell - Why

- Child and adolescent measures are not well developed compared to adult tools
- Most tools quest populations 15 y.o.++
- No adequate frameworks or models that can be translated into tools



## MoMChild Target Population

Children 9-10 y.o. are crucial for health literacy research, their needs and their balance between autonomy and heteronomy differ from adults and adolescents

- Transition; secondary school
- Autonomy and personality development
- Cognitive, emotional, physical development



## MoMChild Objectives

- Development of a valid questionnaire underpinned with a sound model and definition to assess health literacy levels of children 9-10y
- Development of a Milieu Typology related to the childrens life worlds (class-related lifestyles)
- Measuring Health Literacy of primary school children

## Some Challenges when doing Health Literacy research with/in the Child Population

- Stage of life
- Childrens Worlds -> lifestyles?
- Content and context specific factors; what is important?
- How can an instrument adequately address children?
- Measurement of Health Literacy: Adaptation? New development? Crossover?
- Children`s participation?



## MoMChild Methodology

1. Developmental Stage I  
Concept Clarification and Survey Development
2. Qualitative Pilot  
Cognitive Testing of the preliminary instrument
3. Developmental Stage II  
Scale and Variables Modification; Completion of the Tool for Field Test
4. Field Test Quantitative Stage  
Field Test in Schools and pupils
5. Analysis and Refinement I  
Statistical treatment and analysis
6. Analysis and Refinement II  
Milieu Typology Development
7. Finalisation  
Questionnaire final version



## Work in Progress:

A systematic literature review (with reflective elements in the metdly. -> cross referencing)

Using PubMed, Web of Science, PsycInfo, SSRN, Emerald, ERIC, Science Direct, CINAHL, BioMed Central

Objectives:

- (1) Identification of methodologies and measurements of child/adolescent/adult HL,
- (2) Creation of a robust knowledge base of the HL concept .

Results:	Search Topic	Results
	original tools	n=66
	systematic reviews	n=7
	recommendation papers	n=16
	taxonomic papers	n=21
	target population tools (9-10y.o.)	n=3

## Tools found for MoMChild Target Population

KidsHealth KidsPoll of Health Literacy of the National Health Education Standards based Tool  
(Brown et al., 2007, USA) (9-13 y.o.)

GeKoKids Tool: Based on the Nutbeam Typology and Health Promotion Outcome Model  
(Schmidt et al., 2010, Germany) (9-13 y.o.)

Instruments from Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) State Collaborative on  
Assessment of Student Standards (SCASS) Health Education Assessment Project (HEAP)  
(Benham Deal et al., 2010, USA) (8-9 y.o.)





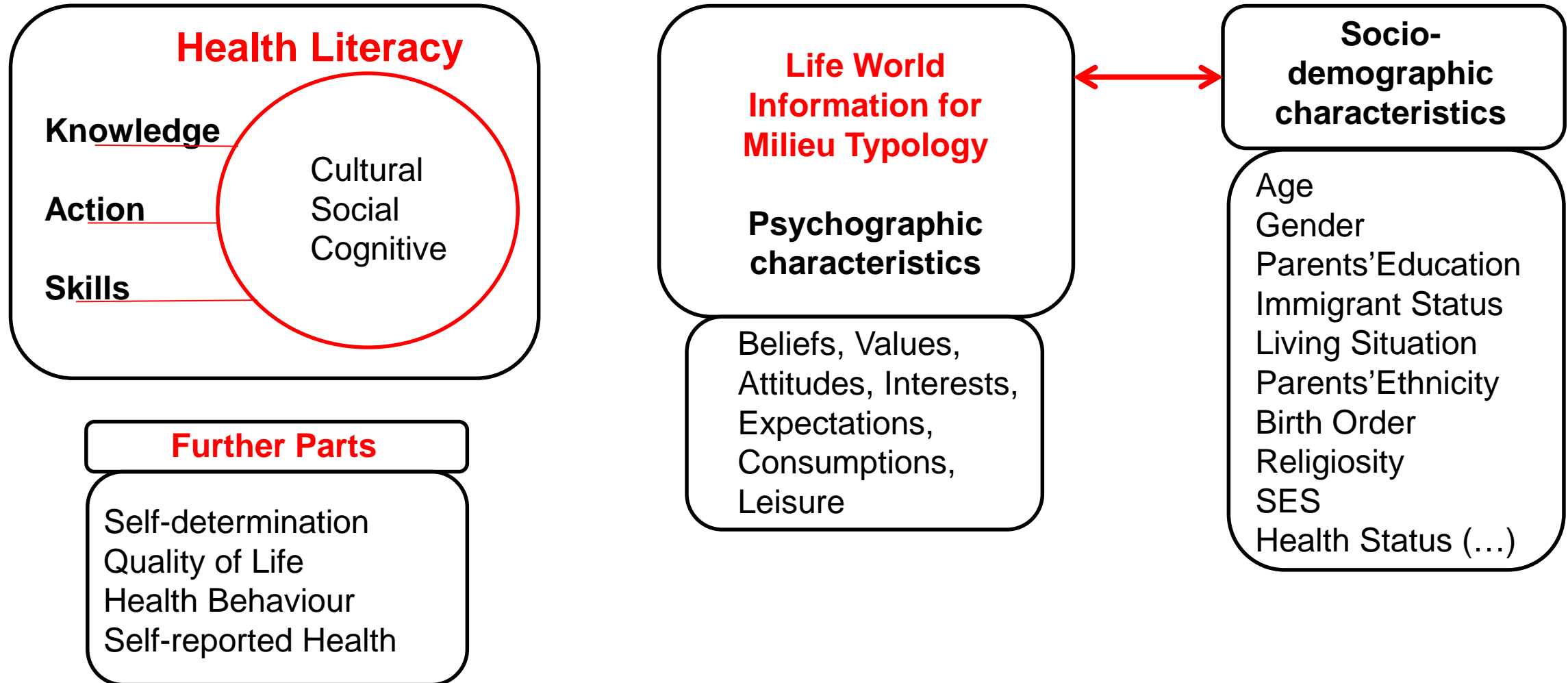
## State of the art

No valid questionnaire to assess health literacy in 9-10 years old primary school children that is underpinned with a target population adjusted model and definition

**GAP IN VALIDITY-DRIVEN TOOLS**

## Concept Clarification

### Conceptual Framework Development and Understanding of Health Literacy?

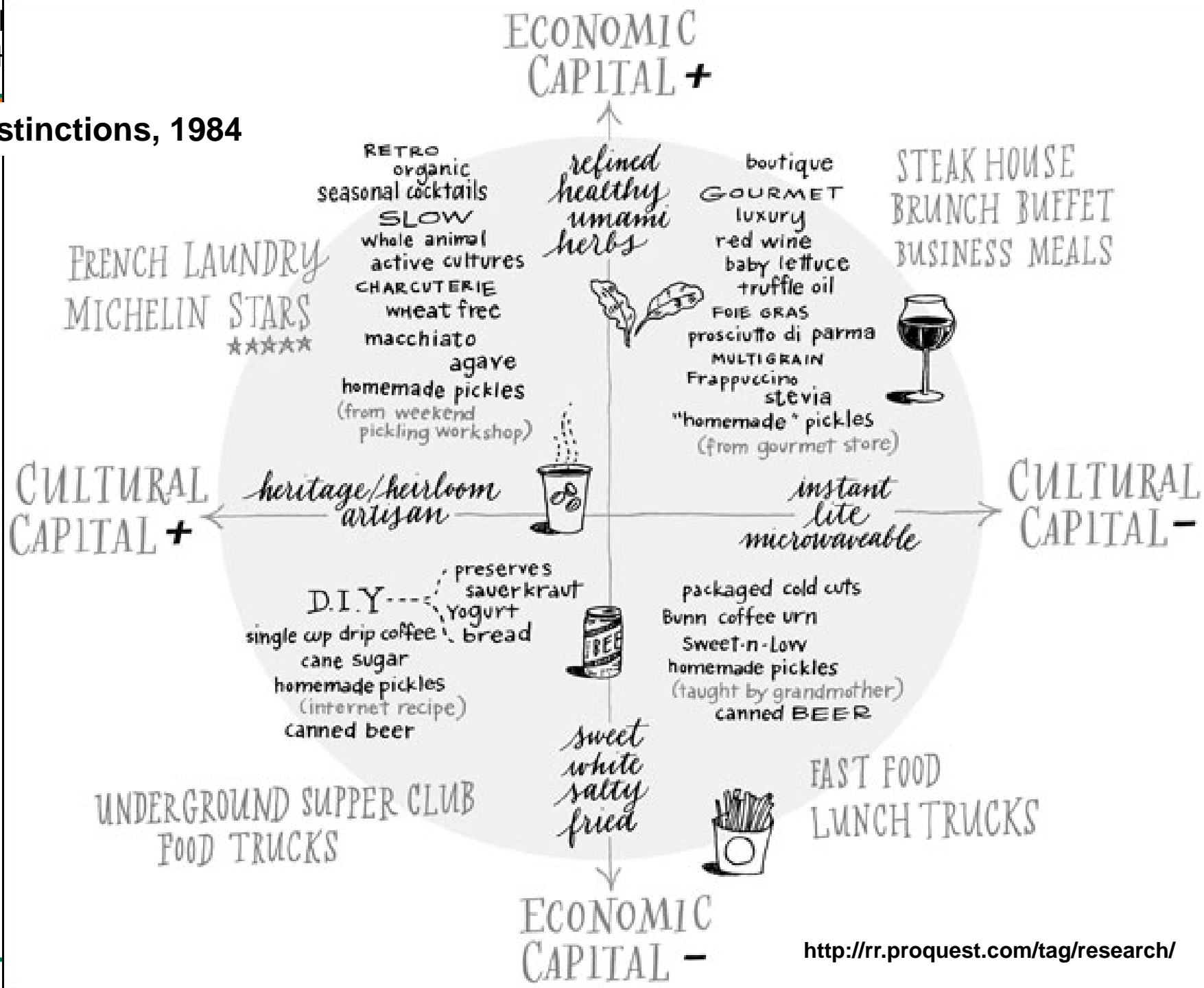


# Pierre Bourdieu, Distinctions, 1984

## Practice Theory

Mediating between  
Subjectivism and  
Objectivism

An Approach to  
dialect between  
social structures  
and human agency  
in a dynamic  
relationship.



# al Spaces



## Summary

- Development of a valid Health Literacy Questionnaire for Children 9-10-y.o.
- Based on a Conceptual Framework, including Dispositional Skills and Attitudes (Milieu Typology)
- Challenges and Difficulties
- Literature Review Results, Lack of Instruments for the Target Population
- Understanding of Child Health Literacy
- Including Children to the Research

